

# **North Dakota Center of Excellence for Individuals Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing**

## **Basic Structure**

### Purpose:

North Dakota will establish a Center of Excellence (CoE) that will be responsible for the development, coordination and maintenance of a comprehensive continuum of non-duplicative services for all citizens who are deaf or hard of hearing from infancy through old age.

### Mission:

An environment in which individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing can access the services and support that they may need to become integrated, productive citizens of the state.

### Center of Excellence Values/Philosophy:

- Services will be based on a comprehensive continuum of services for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing from infancy through old age.
- The focus will be on the people (individuals and families) who need/receive/utilize the services.
- Services will be of the highest (“best”) quality.
- The services will be need-driven, responsive and flexible.
- Activities and services will reflect a leadership role and partnership approach that incorporates tradition, proven strategies and creative/innovative approaches.
- Services and programs will respect related laws and regulations.
- Fiscal responsibility and good stewardship will be stressed.
- Services will reflect a broad focus encompassing all programs serving individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing in the state.
- Services will be available and accessible to all individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

### DPI Portfolio

The Center of Excellence will be established under the authority and jurisdiction of the ND Department of Public Instruction (DPI). As such, the DPI will be responsible to:

- Establish and maintain consistent state policies and philosophies regarding the education of and provision of non-duplicative services to ND citizens who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Establish an administrative and managerial structure for the Center of Excellence that provides management, oversight, planning, budget and fiscal services.
- Develop, implement, monitor and maintain a strategic service plan (comprehensive continuum of services) for the provision of education and other non-duplicative services to ND citizens who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Gather, evaluate and maintain relevant statistics and data regarding the citizens of ND who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Explore and develop innovative/best practices models and partnerships with other state, regional and national educators and service providers.

### Center of Excellence

The Center of Excellence will be staffed by qualified, experienced professionals who may be located on the NDSD campus or in regional/outreach offices throughout the state. The Center will be responsible to:

- Provide Long/Short Term Educational Services (year round options)
  - Residential Services
  - Laboratory School
  - Non-traditional Educational Services Based on an “Open/Revolving Door with Wraparound Services” Philosophy
- Maintain and expand existing programming and services (infant, preschool, residential, outreach, research, including IFSP and IEP consultation, etc.);
- Identify, develop, manage and maintain a continuum of services that is available and accessible for/to North Dakota citizens (from infancy through old age) who are deaf or hard of hearing;
- Provide an information and referral service for individuals, families and the public;
- Develop a public awareness and education campaign;
- Provide and coordinate data and research services as they relate to the full continuum of services;
- Explore the development of technology-based services and initiatives and coordinate the implementation of specific options as they are deemed appropriate;
- Establish and maintain quality standards that promote a statewide policy/philosophy on services and support consistency from community-to-community, school-to-school, and provider-to-provider;
- Coordinate vocational, employment and placement services with other partners and providers in the state;
- Coordinate and provide social and deaf cultural programs and services;
- Serve as the focal coordinating and support point for the exploration and utilization of related technologies;
- Serve as the coordinating partner for the expansion and monitoring (training, certification and accountability) of interpreter services;
- Identify and promote innovative best practices partnerships and models that support quality services and economies of scale at the local, state, regional and national levels;
- Develop, provide and maintain a public education/information program regarding deaf and hard of hearing Issues; and
- Establish, implement and maintain a plan for the management and effective utilization of the NDSD campus, its buildings and facilities (recognizing and supporting the history and traditions of NDSD).

### Potential Partners and Collaborators

- Parents, Consumers and Advocacy Groups
- School and Special Education Districts
- Higher Education - Colleges and Universities
- Hospitals and Medical Facilities
- Alumni and Staff of NDSD

- Advocacy Organizations and Agencies
- ND Department of Human Services/Regional Human Service Centers
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Child Care Providers
- Other states and national education and service providers

### **Service Populations/Profiles:**

- #1. Infants – 0 to 2 years
- #2. Preschool – 3 to 5 years
- #3. Elementary – 6 to 11 years
- #4. Junior High/Middle School – 12 to 15 years
- #5. High School (transition) - 16 to 21 years (or graduation)
- #6. Young Adults – 22 to 35 years
- #7. Adults – 36 to 64 years
- #8. Seniors – 65 years and older

### **Specific Examples of Essential/Core Services**

- Assessments and Evaluations
  - Newborn
  - Preschool
  - School age
  - Adults
  - Seniors
- Case Management Services
- Early Intervention Services
- Family Support, Training and Education Services
- Pre-school (Regional Preschool Programs) Services
- Language Training Services
- Interpreter Services
- Assistive Technology (including hearing aids) Services
- Consultations (including IFSP and IEPs)
- Information and Referral Services
- Advocacy/Mentoring and Peer Support
- Education and Consultation (school and special education districts) Services
- Audiological Services
- Vocational Services
- Mental Health Services
- Cochlear Implant Support Services
- Social and Cultural Support and Education Services